

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A DNA oligomer capable of hybridizing in full-length under high stringency conditions to the full length of a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the high stringency hybridization conditions are overnight hybridization at about 68 °C in 6X SSC and a wash in 6X SSC at room temperature, followed with a wash at 68 °C first in 6X SSC and then in 0.6X SSC.

19.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A DNA oligomer consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto.

22. (Currently Amended) A DNA oligomer capable of hybridizing in full-length under high stringency conditions to the full length of a nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the high stringency hybridization conditions are overnight hybridization at about 68 °C in 6X SSC and a wash in 6X SSC at room temperature, followed with a wash at 68 °C first in 6X SSC and then in 0.6X SSC.

23. (Currently Amended) The DNA oligomer of Claim 18, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (Currently Amended) The DNA oligomer of Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 21, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

25. (Currently Amended) The DNA oligomer of Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 22, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

26.-31. (Cancelled)